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As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
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REMARKS

cc: DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL Done 10/21/87 MER
(EEO)

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FROM	Room No.—Bldg.
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

Executive Secretary

16 Oct '87

Date

LABORATORY
87-3424X



THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 65605, Washington, D.C. 20035-5605

October 9, 1987

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Secretary:

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Honorable William H. Webster
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Mr. Director:

November 1987 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the 1977 National Women's Conference held in Houston, Texas. It was known as the "Spirit of Houston."

An observance of that historical event will be sponsored by the National Women's Conference Committee (NWCC) on November 19-22, 1987, in Washington, D.C. at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel. For your information a conference brochure and information about other national and international meetings are enclosed.

More than 20 workshops, plus plenary sessions, will be conducted. Workshops are based on the 25 planks of the National Plan of Action ratified at the 1977 Conference, which addressed issues of particular concern to the women of the United States. Participants and panelists will review, assess and update the progress women have made toward improving their status and will recommend future strategies.

It is fitting that Federal employees, who shared in the Spirit of Houston in 1977, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985 and who continue to be concerned with critical issues affecting American women, participate in this tenth year observance. Many gains have been achieved in employment of women by the United States government, and the workshops will address their participation in the rapidly changing workplace and their responsibilities to it and to their families.

We will appreciate your cooperation and support in urging the attendance of interested persons from your agency to this historical meeting.

If additional information is desired, please contact Mal Johnson or Betty Shapiro, Planning Committee Co-Chairs by calling (202) 488-8063, or by writing to:

NWCC, United Methodist Building, Suite 201,
100 Maryland Avenue N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

Sincerely,

Allie C. Hixson
Allie C. Hixson
Co-Chair

Dolores P. Burton
Dolores P. Burton
Co-Chair

Enclosures



Continuing Committee of the International Women's Year (IWY)



**NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
10TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF SPIRIT OF HOUSTON: A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT
1977-1987**

The National Women's Conference Committee, formerly the Continuing Committee of International Women's Year (IWY), will observe the Tenth Anniversary of the First National Women's Conference, which was held in Houston, Texas, November 18-22, 1977.

The Conference, to be held in Washington, November 19-22, 1987, will commemorate the "Spirit of Houston". It will provide an opportunity for women representing all areas of the nation, from all ethnic, economical, professional and political backgrounds to come together in mutual concern for the condition of women. We will assess our progress in the past ten years, self-appraise, and strategize for a future agenda directed toward the elimination of barriers that continue to restrict full and equal participation of women in our society.

HISTORY

Three World Conferences were convened by the United Nations, to identify the plight of women of the world and to address their needs in a collective expression of concern; and in networking toward solutions. The World Conference held in Mexico in 1975 marked the beginning of the UN Decade of Women; in 1980 the Mid-Decade Meeting was held in Denmark; and the end of the Decade was culminated at a meeting in Kenya in 1985. During that period, US women met in Houston in 1977 for the First National Women's Conference ever held in the Nation that was authorized, sponsored and financed by the Administration and Congress.

It was a conference more than two years in the planning against a background of the UN proclaimed Decade of Women and the rising demand for equal rights and responsibilities among women throughout the world.

On January 30, 1974, President Nixon issued a proclamation that signaled the beginning of International Women's Year and called upon Congress and the people to observe IWY with practical and constructive measures for the advancement of women in the nation. In 1975, President Ford issued an Executive Order, creating the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. Bella Abzug, Congresswoman from New York introduced a bill in Congress proposing that a National Women's conference be held as part of the country's Bicentennial celebration. The bill passed and became Public Law 96-197 with a 5 million dollar appropriation from Congress. It directed the National Women's Commission to convene a conference to be preceded by state and regional meetings. In November 1977, the Conference met in Houston and adopted a National Plan of Action. 20,000 women went back to their homes hoping that the National Plan of Action would serve as a catalyst to begin the action to remove barriers to their advancement. "The Spirit of Houston", the official report of the conference was presented to President Carter and the Congress on March 22, 1978.

Women's Conference

NWCC co-chairs Allie Hixson and De Burton say that this important conference "will be a networking of women who continue to struggle for political, economic and social equality. We will present important information on the current condition of women and identify areas that need improvement and change."

The NWCC is the International Womens Year Continuing Committee of the 1977 Conference. Its mandate is to work toward implementation of the National Plan of Action, which is the 25 substantive planks that were proposed and ratified in Houston to remove the barriers that prevent women from participating fully and equally in all aspects of national life.

For more information, contact Mal Johnson or Betty Shapiro, Co-chairs, Planning Committee by calling: 202-488-8063 or writing: NWCC, Suite 201, United Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.